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DOCUMENTS

[Under this head it is proposed to print in each issue a few documents of historical importance, hitherto unprinted. It is intended that the documents shall be printed with verbal and literal exactness, and that exact statement be made of the present place of deposit of the document and, in the case of archives and libraries, of the volume and page or catalogue number by which the document is designated. Contributions of important documents, thus authenticated, will be welcomed.]

1. *Emigration from Yorkshire to West Jersey, 1677.*

The two letters which follow are from the letter-book of Sir John Reresby, now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Its reference number is Rawlinson MS. D. 204, and the letters are to be found on folios 64 b and 66 b. The second letter is undated, but was evidently written much about the same time as the earlier one. In his printed *Memoirs*, edited by Mr. J. J. Cartwright in 1875, and also published in a more abridged form in 1734 and 1813, Reresby does not refer to this emigration. The Earl of Danby to whom the first letter was addressed was appointed in 1674 Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and immediately after his appointment had commissioned Reresby as Deputy Lieutenant (*Memoirs*, p. 93.)

C. H. FIRTH.

I.

(MS. Rawl. D. 204, fol. 64 b.)

JULY 17, 1677.

To Thom. Earle of Danby Ld. high Treasurer
of England.

May it please y^r Lordship

(fol. 65) My Lord I thought it my duty to offer another matter to y^r Lordships Consideration viz^t severall persons with their wiues and children (in all to near the nomber off 200) many of them Quaquers and other dissenters inhabitants about sheffield and the adjoining parts of Nottinghamshire and Darbysh^r haue lately gone and are euery day as yet going by the way of Hull to transport themselues to an Island in America called west Jarsey, and are dayly followed by others upon the same design; Insomuch as soe many leauing the Country together giues some discouragement to thes parts, that suffer already ffor want of people; Others going from us frequently for London Ireland and other plantations.

One of the Menagers of this Affair (whom I bound ouer to the last sessions for enticeing away servants from their masters) owned publicquely that they had noe leaue from his Ma^{ty} or the Council to depart the realme ; that they had purchased the Island being 200 Miles in length and 60 Miles ouer for 1500 of his [fol. 65 b] Highness the D. of York ; that it was as yet uninhabited, but that He hoped it would be peopled in a short time soe as to giue a good Account of their Adventure.

My L^d if his Maiesty thinke fitt to discourage this enterprise I humbly conceiue it will be necessary that a speedy stop be put to all ships bound for that island from Hull and if y^r Lordshp. please to order me to giue y^r any further Account as to the names of the undertakers or any other perticulers, I shall doe the best I can to inform my selfe of them, and to obserue y^r Lordsh^{ps} Commands therin that am y^r serv^t.

J. R.

We meet on Thursday next at Pontefract in order to the settling of the Militia: This side of the Country is well pleasd wth the sum giuen his Ma^{ty} and pays it wth all willingness.

II.

(Rawlinson MS. D. 204, fol. 66 b.)

9 br. the 20: 77.

To S^r Jo. Worden secretary to his highness
the Duke of Yorke.

S^r

Though the matter be of noe great concern I thought it was my duty to suffer nothing to pas here wherein his Royall Highness is the least concerned without his knowledge and therefore offer this to you to inform His highness therwith as yⁿ shall see caus: &c.

Seuerall persons from parts here adjacent to the number of near 200 (besides others preparing to goe the next Spring) haue this last year gone from Hul Scarbrough and other ports, under pretence of planting themselves in an Island called new Jersey or west Jersey in America; The principall of them are sectaries but the rest able servants and Labourers, [fol. 67] engaged many of them by the undertakers without their masters or Parents consent. Insoemuch that (soe many departing together, out of a country in great want of people already, and in such a manner) seuerall Complaints were made to the Just^{es} of the peace, who bound one Ric: Mathews of Sheffield¹ a Quaker and a cheif undertaker to appear at the next sessions for the west riding to answer his proceedings wher not being able to shoue that he had any leaue or Authority for thus transporting the Kings subjects He was from thenc bound ouer to the next Assizes at Yorke to make his defence. Since the sd Sessions held at Barnsley the 12 Oct. last past He the s^d Mathews came here to me upon the 24 of Oct. and

¹ The name of Richard Mathews is found among those signed to "The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Province of West New Jersey in America," March 3, 1677. *New Jersey Archives*, I. 268.—ED.